

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising:
 - a plate attachable to said top drive,
 - a supporting member for supporting a tool and coupling said tool to said top drive, whereby said tool is rotatable by said top drive, and
 - a motive member for allowing substantially horizontal movement of said supporting member.
2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said motive member allows substantially vertical movement of said supporting member.
3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said motive member comprises a rigid member arranged between said plate and said supporting member and arranged on at least one axle.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in any of Claim 2, wherein said motive member comprises pistons and cylinders arranged between said plate and said supporting member to allow vertical movement of said supporting member.
6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in any of Claim 2, further comprising a slider to facilitate vertical movement of said supporting member.
7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a fluid conduit is arranged between said plate and said supporting member.
8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said fluid conduit is moveable in relation to said plate and said supporting member.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein **said** supporting member is a hydraulic motor.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein **said** supporting member is integral with said tool.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein **said** tool is for gripping a tubular.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method for facilitating the connection of a first tubular to a second tubular using a top drive, the method comprising:

attaching a tool to the top drive using a supporting member;
engaging the first tubular with the tool;
adjusting the supporting member to cause the tool to be displaced horizontally relative to the top drive; and
operating the top drive to rotate the first tubular relative to the second tubular.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein adjusting the supporting member comprises adjusting pistons and cylinders arranged between the supporting member and a plate attachable to the top drive.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising transferring a torque from the top drive to the tool.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising engaging a first tubular with the tool and rotating the tool to connect the first tubular to a second tubular.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein displacing the tool horizontally aligns a first tubular with a second tubular.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising engaging an interior portion of a tubular with the tool.

20. (Previously Presented) A top drive system, comprising:
a top drive;
a tubular gripping apparatus; and
a structural intermediate operatively coupling the tubular gripping apparatus to the top drive, wherein the structural intermediate is adapted to allow the tubular gripping apparatus to move horizontally relative to the top drive and allow the tubular gripping apparatus to be rotated by the top drive.

21. (Previously Presented) The top drive system of claim 20, wherein the structural intermediate includes a fluid conduit for fluid communication between the top drive and the tubular gripping apparatus.

22. (Previously Presented) The top drive system of claim 20, wherein the structural intermediate comprises a first support member connectable to the top drive and a second support member connectable to the tubular gripping apparatus, wherein the second support member is horizontally movable relative to the first support member.

23. (Previously Presented) The top drive system of claim 20, wherein horizontal movement of the tubular gripping apparatus comprises moving the tubular gripping apparatus away from a central axis of the top drive.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

24. (Previously Presented) The top drive system of claim 20, wherein the horizontal movement is in a substantially horizontal plane.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars using a top drive, the apparatus comprising:

a plate attachable to said top drive,

a supporting member for supporting a tool, and

a means for allowing substantially horizontal movement of said supporting member, wherein ~~said means comprises~~ the means comprising:

a rigid member arranged between said plate and said supporting member and arranged on at least one axle, and

~~wherein said means comprises~~ at least one arm arranged between said rigid member and said ~~support~~ supporting member and connected thereto by spherical bearings.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said motive member couples the plate to the supporting member.

27. (Previously Presented) A top drive system, comprising:

a top drive;

a tubular gripping apparatus; and

a connector operatively coupling the tubular gripping apparatus to the top drive, wherein the connector is adapted to allow the tubular gripping apparatus to move horizontally relative to the top drive and allow the tubular gripping apparatus to be rotated by the top drive.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY